

Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195591

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SHUM, PORG, XE

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/RA - HERBERT E. HOROWITZ

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - EA/RA

1. PRE-UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONSULTATIONS IN EAST ASIA
(LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

PLANS FOR PRE-GA DISCUSSIONS WITH MOST OF THE ASEAN
STATES ARE AGAIN IN THE AIR WITH NEITHER AMBASSADOR
MCHENRY OR DAS HELMAN ABLE TO UNDERTAKE THEIR PREVIOUSLY
PLANNED TRIPS. HOWEVER, EFFORTS ARE NOW BEING MADE FOR
IO DAS BARRY TO GO TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND AND THEN
PERHAPS PICK UP SOME BUT NOT ALL OF THE ASIAN STOPS.
INDONESIA AND SINGAPORE ARE PRESENTLY BEING CONSIDERED.
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BUT EVEN BARRY'S TRIP REMAINS VERY UNCERTAIN.

2. JAPAN'S SC SEAT (CONFIDENTIAL)

DURING A DISCUSSION WITH USUN, JAPANESE MISSION MINISTER
KATO PAINTED A GLOOMY PICTURE OF JAPAN'S RACE WITH
BANGLADESH FOR THE UPCOMING ASIAN VACANCY ON THE SECURITY

COUNCIL. HE SAID THAT JAPAN IS SERIOUS ABOUT PRESSING ITS CANDIDACY AND INTENDS TO FORCE IT TO A VOTE IF NECESSARY. ACCORDING TO KATO, BANGLADESH HAS VERY SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT IN THE ASIAN GROUP WHILE JAPAN FACES AN UPHILL FIGHT EVEN WITH THE EUROPEANS. HE NOTED THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE ARE CONCERNED THAT JAPAN AND BANGLADESH COULD NULIFY EACH OTHER'S CANDIDACIES, WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT A MONGOLIAN BID MIGHT BECOME A FACTOR.

USUN'S COMMENT INDICATES THAT IT DOES NOT BELIEVE BANGLADESH CAN ACHIEVE CLEAR ENDORSEMENT FROM THE ASIAN GROUP (SUCH ENDORSEMENT IS TANTAMOUNT TO ELECTION). HENCE, OUR MISSION FEELS THE RACE WILL HAVE TO BE DECIDED IN THE GA BY SECRET BALLOT. USUN IS ALSO MORE SANGUINE THAN KATO ABOUT THE EUROPEAN ATTITUDE TOWARD THE JAPANESE CANDIDACY.

3. VOTE ON NAMIBIA (CONFIDENTIAL)

USUN REPORTED SOME SURPRISE AT CHINA'S AFFIRMATIVE VOTE ON THE NAMIBIA ENABLING RESOLUTION (THE USSR AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA ABSTAINED). AMBASSADOR CHEN FELT THE PROPOSAL HAD SERIOUS DEFECTS AND NOTED CHINA HAD ALWAYS HELD A DIFFERENT POSITION IN PRINCIPLE ON THE DISPATCH OF UN FORCES AND IT HAD SERIOUS RESERVATION ABOUT UNTAG. CONFIDENTIAL

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IN EXPLAINING CHINA'S AFFIRMATIVE VOTE, CHEN SAID THE RESOLUTION ONLY TAKES NOTE OF THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AND DOES NOT ASK THE SC TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL.

4. NAM CONFERENCE (CONFIDENTIAL)

THE MEETING OF THE NAM FOREIGN MINISTERS IN BELGRADE HAS CLOSED BUT ASSESSMENTS ARE ONLY JUST BEGINNING TO COME IN AND WE HAVE HAD NO READOUT AS YET FROM THE EA PARTICIPANTS. THE RESULTS WERE MIXED AS FAR AS THE US WAS CONCERNED. THE DECLARATION WAS VERY HARSH ON THE MIDDLE EAST, CONTRARY TO OUR INTERESTS IN PUERTO RICO, AND CUBA SURVIVED A NUMBER OF SLINGS AND ARROWS WITHOUT SERIOUS LOSS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE KOREAN LANGUAGE IS REPORTEDLY BETTER THAN IN THE PAST AND THE ACTIVITY OF THE MORE MODERATE MEMBERS SUGGESTS THAT THE POWER OF THE NAM RADICALS MAY HAVE BEEN A LITTLE MUTED.

IT IS OF NOTE THAT ALL EA MEMBERS SPOKE DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE. MOREOVER, CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION WAS PAID TO THE VERBAL BATTLES BETWEEN VIETNAM AND KAMPUCHEA AND KAMPUCHEA AND CUBA WHICH RAGED ON IN THE MEETING

HALLS AND IN PART AT PRESS CONFERENCES.

5. CHRISTOPHER COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP MEETING (UNCLASSIFIED)

THE CHRISTOPHER COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP MET ON JULY 27:

-- THREE ADB LOANS FOR THAILAND WERE PUT ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR. HA NOTED THAT IT IS NOT HAPPY ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THAILAND BUT DOES NOT CURRENTLY THINK THE IFI WEAPON SHOULD BE USED TO TRY TO IMPROVE IT.

-- AN ADB LOAN FOR SINGAPORE WAS APPROVED WITHOUT COMMENT.

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-- THE PROPOSED \$33.5 MILLION ADB LOAN TO INDONESIA FOR THE BELAWAN PORT PHASE I WAS REFERRED TO THE CHRISTOPHER COMMITTEE. HA ARGUED FOR SOME SORT OF "POSITIVE DEMARCHE" TO THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT; WE AND S/P STRONGLY OPPOSED THIS; THE OTHERS WERE SILENT. THERE WAS A DISCUSSION WHETHER PORT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR ARCHIPELAGIC COUNTRIES MEET BASIC HUMAN NEEDS (BHN) CRITERIA. S/P CLAIMED THAT PREVIOUS DECISIONS OF THE CHRISTOPHER COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED THAT THEY DO; HA DISAGREED.

-- AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION WHETHER A PROPOSED \$9.5 MILLION ADB LOAN FOR A FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES MET BHN CRITERIA, THE LOAN WAS REFERRED TO THE CHRISTOPHER COMMITTEE. TREASURY IS CABLING MANILA TO TRY TO GET MORE BHN INFORMATION ABOUT THE LOAN.

THE NEXT CHRISTOPHER GROUP MEETING IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE AUGUST 18. BESIDES THE LOANS MENTIONED ABOVE, ITS AGENDA WILL INCLUDE THE ADB PROPOSED LOAN TO THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE SECOND AGUSAN RIVER IRRIGATION PROJECT. AT THE TIME OF THE JULY 27 MEETING, WE HAD NOT YET SEEN MANILA'S EXCELLENT 11715 ON THIS SUBJECT, WHICH WE THINK CLEARLY DOCUMENTS THAT THIS PROJECT MEETS BHN CRITERIA. WE TRUST THE COMMITTEE WILL AGREE THAT THIS IS THE CASE.

6. ARMS EXPORTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

HA HAS VOICED OBJECTIONS TO THE FOLLOWING MUNITIONS CONTROL OR POLICE-RELATED COMMERCIAL EXPORT LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR EA COUNTRIES: PHILIPPINES (15 REVOLVERS FOR

NBI, AH-1S--TOW/COBRA--MARKETING); THAILAND (AH-1S--TOW/CONFIDENTIAL

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COBRA--MARKETING, .22 AMMUNITION "FOR TERRITORIAL DEFENSE", HANDCUFFS AND DECORATIVE BELT BUCKLES FOR POLICE); INDONESIA (NIGHT VISION DEVICE FOR POLICE, GAS MASKS AND GUNS, TEAR GUNS, BULLETPROOF VESTS AND GROIN PROTECTORS) AND INDONESIA, ROC, ROK, PHILIPPINES (TASER "STUN GUN").

WE ARE NOW CONSIDERING WHETHER TO APPEAL HA'S OBJECTION TO MRS. BENSON AND MR. CHRISTOPHER. AS A RESULT OF THE CHRISTOPHER COMMITTEE MEETING OF JULY 12 TO CONSIDER ARMS SALES TO THE PHILIPPINES, THE DECISION WAS MADE TO DENY TWO APPLICATIONS TO DEMONSTRATE PROTOTYPE SUBMACHINE-GUNS TO THE GOP. DECISIONS ARE STILL PENDING WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ON THE OTHER, LARGER ITEMS CONSIDERED AT THAT MEETING, INCLUDING SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT, AIFV'S, AND PATROL BOATS.

7. REFUGEES (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

IN PREPARATION FOR THE ASEAN CONSULATIONS, WE WORKED ON TALKING POINTS FOR THE INDOCHINA REFUGEE SESSION AND DRAFTED REMARKS FOR THE SECRETARY ON THE REFUGEE PROBLEM. WE HAVE PLACED MAXIMUM STRESS ON THE REGIONAL APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM OF FIRST ASYLUM, OUR COMMITMENT TO A CONTINUING MULTI-YEAR PROGRAM, AND OUR SUPPORT FOR THE UNHCR AND FOR ANY PRACTICAL INITIATIVES AIMED AT WIDENING INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM.

LEGISLATION THAT WOULD INTER ALIA COMBINE EASTERN AND WESTERN HEMISPHERE PREFERENCES, ALREADY PASSED IN THE HOUSE, IS RECEIVING HIGH SENATE PRIORITY. ON THE 31ST JACK FRIEDMAN REPRESENTED US AT A MEETING OF GEOGRAPHIC BUREAUS TO DISCUSS ALLOCATION OF SUCH PREFERENCES THAT MIGHT BECOME AVAILABLE FOR REFUGEES IN FY'79, AND THE NEXT DAY JOINED SHEPARD LOWMAN, DIRECTOR OF HA/ORM, IN A DISCUSSION OF THE SAME TOPIC WITH MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVES OF CA AND INS.

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ALTHOUGH REP. EILBERG HAS REMARKED, DURING HOUSE DEBATE, THAT HE HOPED THAT THE PREFERENCES MADE AVAILABLE WOULD BE USED FOR INDOCHINESE BOAT CASES, THE LIKELY NUMBERS WILL BE MORE MODEST THAN FIRST HOPED. EVEN IF THE LEGISLATION PASSED AND BECAME EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, ALL FY'78 PREFERENCES HAVE ALREADY BEEN OBLIGATED. VANCE

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